

**What is claimed is:**

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising a first oligomeric compound and a second oligomeric compound, wherein:

~~at least a portion of said~~ the first oligomeric compound is complementary to and capable of hybridizing with ~~at least a portion of said~~ to the second oligomeric compound,

~~at least a portion of said~~ the first oligomeric compound is complementary to and capable of hybridizing to a selected target nucleic acid,

one of said the first and said second oligomeric compounds comprises a plurality of linked nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups, and

the other ~~one~~ of said the first and said second oligomeric compounds comprises a plurality of linked nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups and wherein essentially each of said the nucleosides is other than 2'-OH and have 3'-endo conformational geometry and wherein at least one of the nucleosides having 3'-endo conformational geometry is a 2'-fluoro modified nucleoside comprising a purine heterocyclic base;

each of the first and second oligomeric compounds independently comprises from about 12 to about 30 nucleosides; and

wherein said ~~first and second oligomeric compounds~~ the composition optionally further comprise comprises at least one or more phosphate group, groups, a 5'- or 3'-overhang overhangs, stabilizing groups or a conjugate ~~group groups~~.

2. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said the first oligomeric compound comprises a the plurality of linked nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups and wherein essentially each of said the nucleosides is other than 2'-OH and have 3'-endo conformational geometry.

3. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said the second oligomeric compound comprises a the plurality of linked nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups and wherein essentially each of said the nucleosides is other than 2'-OH and have 3'-endo conformational geometry.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said the nucleosides of said the second oligomeric compound comprise a  $\beta$ -D-ribofuranose sugar group.
6. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3'-terminus of said the first oligomeric compound comprises a stabilizing ~~or conjugate~~ group.
7. (currently amended) The composition of claim 6 wherein said the stabilizing group is a capping group or a dTdT dimer.
8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said the first oligomeric compound ~~eeprises~~ comprises a 5'-phosphate group.
- 10-13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said the internucleoside linking groups of said the first and second oligomeric ~~compound~~ compounds is, independently, a phosphodiester or a phosphorothioate.
- 15-19. (canceled).
20. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3'-terminus of said the second oligomeric compound comprises a stabilizing or conjugate group.
21. (currently amended) The composition of claim 20 wherein said the stabilizing group is a capping group or a dTdT dimer.
22. (currently amended) The composition of claim 20 wherein the 3'-terminus of said the second oligomeric compound comprises a conjugate group.

23-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The composition of claim 2 1 wherein each of said the nucleosides of the said first and second oligomeric compound compounds ~~has~~ have 3'-endo conformational geometry.

27-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The composition of claim 28 1 wherein each of said the nucleosides that are other than 2'-OH and have 3'-endo conformational geometry comprises a 2'-substituent groups group is, independently, selected from -F, -O-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-O-CH<sub>3</sub>, -O-CH<sub>3</sub>, -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-O-N(R<sub>i</sub>)(R<sub>j</sub>), -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-N(R<sub>i</sub>)(R<sub>j</sub>), -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-C(=O)-N(R<sub>i</sub>)(R<sub>j</sub>), -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub> or -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH-CH<sub>2</sub>-NH(R<sub>i</sub>), -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-NH(R<sub>i</sub>) where each R<sub>i</sub> is is, independently, H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl.

31-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said the first and said the second oligomeric compounds are a complementary pair of siRNA oligonucleotides.

40. (currently amended) The composition of claim 39 wherein said the first and said the second oligomeric compounds have 3'-dTdT overhangs.

41. (currently amended) The composition of claim 39 wherein said the first and said the second oligomeric compounds have blunt ends.

42. (currently amended) The ~~oligomeric compound composition~~ composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one terminal cap moiety.

43. (currently amended) The ~~oligomeric compound~~ composition of claim 42 wherein ~~said the~~ terminal cap moiety is attached to one or both of the 3'-terminal and 5'-terminal ends of ~~said the~~ second oligomeric compound.

44. (currently amended) The ~~oligomeric compound~~ composition of claim 43 wherein ~~said the~~ terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.

45-48. (canceled).

49. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of ~~said the~~ first and second oligomeric compounds has from about 12 to about 24 ~~nucleobases~~ nucleosides.

50. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of ~~said the~~ first and second oligomeric compounds has from about 19 to about 23 ~~nucleobases~~ nucleosides.

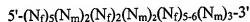
51-52. (canceled)

53. (currently amended) A method of ~~inhibiting gene expression~~ reducing target messenger RNA comprising contacting one or more cells, a tissue or an animal with a composition of claim 1.

54. (new) The composition of claim 2 wherein each of the nucleoside having 3'-endo conformational geometry comprises a 2'-substituent group independently selected from -F and -O-CH<sub>3</sub>.

55. (new) The composition of claim 54 wherein at least 7 of the 2'-substituent groups are -O-CH<sub>3</sub> and at least 12 of the 2'-substituent groups are -F.

56. (new) The composition of claim 55 wherein the first oligomeric compound comprises the formula:



wherein:

each  $N_f$  is a 2'-F modified nucleoside; and  
each  $N_m$  is a 2'-OCH<sub>3</sub> modified nucleoside.